

RESTITUTION CHRONOLOGY

N.B.: This is a rough, ongoing compilation. Feel free to add.

1899 and 1907: Hague Conventions include provisions against looting. (Seb. Policy Paper 2, p.1)

1919: Treaty of Versailles and Treaty of St. Germain provides for restitution. (Seb. Policy Paper 2, p. 2)

Nov. 30, 1939: Polish Govt. in Exile issues law saying spoliation by Nazis will not stand. Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 355.

Oct. 22, 1941: Greek govt in exile decrees law against Nazi spoliation. Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 355.

Dec. 19, 1941: Czech govt in exile decrees law against Nazi spoliation. Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 355.

May 28, 1942: Yugoslav govt in exile issues law saying spoliation by Nazis will not stand. Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 355.

Jan. 5, 1943: London Declaration. Copy of text, Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 449.

Jan. 23, 1943: Roosevelt approves of the Roberts' Commission

Spring 1943: Palestinian group "Nir" begins action to assess types and amounts of property seized from Jews. Sagi, p. 16-17.

June 3, 1943: Sir Herbert Emerson, head of the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees, in a memo sent to the Allies said that the Allied declaration of January 1943 should apply not only to wartime seizures but also to those carried out before the war on grounds of race, religion or political opinion. Sagi, p. 9.

Summer 1943-1944: Interdivisional Commission on Reparations and Restitution (database)

Aug. 17, 1943: CCS directive for the occupation of Italy which orders that all "holdings of gold, foreign,

currencies and foreign securities, all national funds and the funds of Fascist political organizations shall be taken into custody as quickly as possible and shall be deposited with the Allied Military Financial Agency or banks designated by the military government." Seb. Policy Paper 2, p. 8.

Feb. 22, 1944: Gold declaration. Morgenthau says that US would not recognize the transfer of titles to looted gold and would not buy gold from countries with ties to Axis. (Seb. Policy Paper 2, p. 3)

April 17, 1944: CCS directive 551 to Eisenhower says that all property in the German territory belonging to the German Reich or to any country with which any of the United Nations are at war will be controlled directly or indirectly pending further instructions. Helen's paper, p. 4.

July, 1944: Final Act of the Bretton Woods Conference cites the declaration of London and issues a recommendation that the governments of all neutral countries take immediate measures to prevent the fraudulent concealment or disposition of any assets that belonged to any occupied country and to prevent the transfer within territories of looted assets. Seb. Policy Paper 2, p. 4.

July 8, 1944: Treasury decision 51072 enacted under sections 3(a) and 5(b) of the TWEA and provided for a procedure for the release of art objects imported into the US after March 12, 1938. Under TD 51072 anyone seeking to import any art object into the US from any country other than those of the UK was obliged to obtain a license to do so by submitting an application. All applications for licenses were submitted to the Roberts Commission for approval. Apparently a document exists from Jan. 27, 1947 in which Roberts Commission asked for information from Safehaven files. Seb. Policy Paper 2, p. 7.

Sept. 1944: Dr. Siegfried Moses of the Association of Central European Immigrants in Palestine, releases a booklet entitled "Jewish Post-War Claims" which was presented to the Allies in May 1945. Sagi, p. 20.

1944: Nehemiah Robinson's "Indemnification and Reparations-Jewish Aspects" appears. For an outline of

Robinson's proposals, see Sagi, p. 21-23. Includes allusion to Robinson's idea for a successor organization.

Sept. 18, 1944: MG Law 52 prohibits the transference of cultural property. Also discusses duress properties. Seb. Policy Paper 2, p. 5. Also see Helen's paper, p. 4.

Nov. 26-30, 1944: Conference of the World Jewish Congress, Atlantic City promulgates two resolutions on postwar reparation. See Sagi, p. 24-26. More discussion on the idea of a successor organization

Feb. 24, 1945: Bulgaria enacts restitution legislation. Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 360. See 360-370 for discussion of restitution legislation in other countries, too.

March 7, 1945: Administrative Memo no. 49 to address the fate of currency and other financial assets seized from enemy forces. Info comes from Seb. Policy Paper 2, p. 9.

March 23, 1945: Portugal enacts restitution decree. Implements decree in May 1945. Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 360.

Apr. 11, 1945 Currency Section of SHAEF mandate expanded so that it becomes a repository of assets seized or impounded by Allied military forces.

Apr. 28, 1945: JCS 1067. Helen's paper, p. 5 provides a long quotation from it.

May 31, 1945: MG Law 53 SHAEF Currency Section instructs that henceforth all gold and silver bullion and coin, paper currency or any other than German issue and foreign exchange assets falling under MG Law 53 would be deposited at the Currency Section for Germany at the Reichsbank in Frankfurt. Seb. Policy Paper 2, p. 15

Jun. 29, 1945: Swedes promulgate law concerning restitution. Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 360.

Jul. 12, 1945: GOV 406 laid out the structure and responsibilities of the newly-created Financial Division of the Combined Administrative Liquidating agency (CALA) which was subordinated to the CCS. As part of its mandate, the Financial Division had custody of gold, foreign currencies,

foreign securities, valuable papers and similar assets pending determination of future disposition of such assets. Seb. Policy Paper 2, p. 10.

Jul. 29, 1945: Discussion of what to do with art objects found in US zone. Gives go-ahead for restitution of immediately identifiable artworks. 313574

Aug. 2, 1945: Potsdam agreement on Aug. 2, 1945: provides that unilateral action by any zone commander in seizing, confiscating, and removing materials from Germany transcending reparations or just restitution would be unwise. Seb. Policy Paper 2, p. 11.

Aug. 18, 1945: Policy directive from Byrnes on how US should proceed with recovered gold. 317824-825.

Aug. 20, 1945: Swiss issue a decree concerning temporary measures in expected lawsuits involving the right of ownership and possession of movables lost in war-stricken areas. More permanent decree issued in Dec 1945. Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 359.

Aug. 25, 1945: Return of Van Eyck painting to city of Ghent in Belgium. 313926-927.

Sept. 3, 1945: Ghent Altarpiece returned to Belgium. Roberts Commission Report, p. 148.

Sept. 15, 1945: Directive from HQ to set in motion the return of the Veit Stoss altarpiece and the immediate return of the Michelangelo Madonna to Belgium and fifty of the finest and most representative paintings of French origin to Paris. In Munich each nation assigned an office and given a German curatorial assistant. "Soon streams of art were flowing in both directions at the Munich Collecting Point." Bruges Madonna returned (when? Precise date not given). 73 cases containing the stained glass windows of Strasbourg Cathedral sent there from the Heilbronn mine. Received with elaborate ceremony which served to celebrate the return of Alsace to French control (on Nov. 2, according to Roberts Commission Report, p. 150).. 2 days after the Strasbourg delivery the first paintings went back to Paris. Mostly Rothschild property. Nicholas, Rape of Europa, p. 409. (No document cited.)

Sept. 20, 1945: Paragraph 42 (b) of the Four-Power Control Agreement says that the Germans are to comply with directions of the Allies regarding assets, etc. of those affected by discrimination legislation. Text provided, Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 449.

Sept. 20, 1945: Chaim Weizmann presents the 4 Powers with the first post-war Jewish claim for restitution of property and indemnification. Claims include restitution of property including buildings, installations, equipment, etc., heirless property should be returned to representatives of Jewish people; Jews should get a portion of the reparations. Sagi, p. 31-32.

Sept. 21, 1945: Eisenhower's clearance for eleven carloads of historic Baltic archives now in 22 Corps area. Baltic states Paper, p. 5

Sept. 26, 1945: Eisenhower authorizes commanding General of the Eastern Military District that the Latvian materials should also be returned to the Soviet Military authorities for custody and ultimate disposition. Baltic States paper, p. 5.

Oct., 1945: Holland receives the Koenigs/van Beuningen Rubenses, the Rathenau Rembrandt Self-Portrait, a large number of Goudstikker works, and Goering's fake Vermeer. Nicholas, Rape of Europa, p. 410.

Oct. 1945: Leading Jewish groups combine and begin to advise OMGUS. By Oct. 19 has proposals sent to State. See also for influence of Jacob Blaustein. Sagi, p. 32-33

Oct. 17, 1945: JCS 1067 released to the press, with an introductory text stating that where policy statements in it differed from Potsdam, Potsdam would have sway. Helen's paper, p. 6.

Oct. 25, 1945: 18 fully loaded wagons and one underslung flat car of French origin from the Neuschwanstein MFA&A repository left Fuessen for Paris. Roberts Commission Report, p. 138.

Nov. 1945: Austrian restitution of fine arts, one of the largest radium collections in Europe, property, etc. 314086-093.

Nov. 29, 1945: Interim restitution policy directive.
215765-215768.

Dec. 2, 1945: By this date, all French works in the Neuschwanstein castle had been returned to Paris. "While this was going on, the Munich Collecting Point was shipping out as many as twelve carloads a week filled with every conceivable type of object. Wanda Landowska's clavichord and Chopin piano went back to Paris. Czernin Vermeer hand-carried back to Vienna. Holy Roman Empire regalia also sent back to Vienna. Nicholas, Rape of Europa, p. 411.

Dec. 14, 1945: Memo from McNarney stating that OMGUS is the agency in charge of restitution of property. 215934.

Jan. 1946: MG Regulation (or Title) 17. Key law governing property control and restitution. Provides thresholds for which properties the LCAHs would seize properties. Ellen's paper, pp. 6-7.

Jan. 14, 1946: Paris Conference on Reparations. Neutrals to turn over money. Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 379 has good information on this. Also see Inter-Allied Reparation Agency, Report of the Assembly, p.4 for text of article 8, "Allocation of a Reparation Share to Non-repatriable Victims of German Action"; also see p. 7 for section on the "Restitution of Monetary Gold" Sagi says that the "question of restitution" was not on the planned agenda of the Conference, but that 10 of the participating countries decided to add it. See Sagi, p. 11. For the influence of Jewish groups on US proposal, see Sagi, p. 33-34.

Jan. 21, 1946: Allied Control Council defines the term restitution #100086

Feb. 5, 1946: 801 sacks of Russian rubles released from FED to Soviet military representatives. Other early releases included cultural properties, religious objects and counterfeit English currency. Slany report, p. 155.

March 21, 1946: 4,712 books confiscated from the Institut der NSDAP zur Erforschung der Judenfrage delivered to the LC Mission for transport to Washington. Looted Books paper, footnote 37.

March 25, 1946: 770 books confiscated from the Institut der NSDAP zur Erforschung der Judenfrage delivered to the LC Mission for transport to Washington. Looted books paper, note 40.

March 26, 1946: 1955 books confiscated from the Institut der NSDAP zur Erforschung der Judenfrage delivered to the LC Mission for transport to Washington. Looted books paper, note 40.

March 1946: Public Law 322 aids release of property from APC

April 1, 1946: 5,149 items, representing 8,284 actual objects, had been returned from Munich. Nicholas, Rape of Europa, p. 428. 2118 books confiscated from the Institut der NSDAP zur Erforschung der Judenfrage delivered to the LC Mission for transport to Washington. Looted books paper, note 40.

April 4, 1946: 992 books confiscated from the Institut der NSDAP zur Erforschung der Judenfrage delivered to the LC Mission for transport to Washington. Looted books paper, note 40.

April 10, 1946: 1771 books confiscated from the Institut der NSDAP zur Erforschung der Judenfrage delivered to the LC Mission for transport to Washington. Looted books paper, note 40.

April 17, 1946: 1234 books confiscated from the Institut der NSDAP zur Erforschung der Judenfrage delivered to the LC Mission for transport to Washington. Looted books paper, note 40.

April 17, 1946: ACA Quadripartite Procedures for Restitution; states in Appendix A that "the question of restitution of property removed by the Germans from allied countries must in all cases be examined in light of the" London Declaration. Seb. Policy Paper 2, p. 14.

May 5, 1946: Veit Stoss Altarpiece returned to Poland. Nicholas, Rape of Europa, p 412.

May 22, 1946: 2020 books confiscated from the Institut der NSDAP zur Erforschung der Judenfrage delivered to the LC

Mission for transport to Washington. Looted books paper, note 40.

May 31, 1946: 915 books confiscated from the Institut der NSDAP zur Erforschung der Judenfrage delivered to the LC Mission for transport to Washington. Looted books paper, note 40.

June 1, 1946: MG Law 52 takes effect. It says: "Property which has been the subject of transfer under duress, wrongful acts of confiscation, dispossession, or spoliation...is hereby declared to be equally subject to seizure of possession or title...or otherwise being taken into control by the MG. Ellen's paper, pp. 2-3. Also see pp. 4-5 for more on MG Law 52.

Aug. 6, 1946: \$32 million Hungarian gold reserve returned to Budapest from FED. Slany report, p. 155.

Aug. 1946: Public Law 671 aids in release of property from APC

Sept. 3, 1946: 953 books and 376 brochures confiscated from the Institut der NSDAP zur Erforschung der Judenfrage delivered to the LC Mission for transport to Washington. Looted books paper, note 40. Final shipment of books in Sept. 1946 brought total of material to 20,329 (19,953 books and 376 brochures). Looted books paper, note 43.

Oct. 2, 1946: Committee of 5 Jewish organizations presented Acheson with observations on proposed restitution law for US Zone. Robinson in close contact with Clay. Sagi, p. 39.

Dec. 1946: Bernard Bernstein, legal advisor to the American Jewish Conference, proposes setting up both a JRSO and a JCR.

1947: 23,000 carats of diamonds restituted to the Netherlands. FA 4/25, note 128.

Jan. 20, 1947: AGWAR to USFET on the disposal of foreign currencies recovered in Germany.

June 24, 1947: Restitution of items of the werfen Train valuables to the IGCR/PCIRO. FA 4/25, note 48.

July 17, 1947: Restitution of the bulk of FED jewelry to IGCRI/IRO. FA 4/25, note 93.

Aug. 27, 1947: Restitution of items from the "so-called" Silver Train. Murphy/Saviano, p. 7

Sept. 5, 1947: First shipment of non-monetary gold released to a representative of the PCIRO. Then restitution becomes more rapid in the autumn of 1947. Goods transferred, appraised at approximately \$747, 367, consisted primarily of the Melmer account and the 313 boxes of loot found at Buchenwald. The currencies, securities, and gold coins found in the SS loot were not included in that transfer. Slany report, p. 155 and 174.

Nov. 10, 1947: MG Law 59. See Ellen's paper, pp. 8-9; Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 452-457 for a good analysis of the law.

Nov. 18, 1947: "Five movable property" formerly registered with Property Control Linz restituted to PCIRO. 110407-110409; FA 4/25, note 50.

Jan. , 1948: MFA&A officers were informed that the Army had been authorized to return to refugee nationals or non-nationals of the Soviet Union or Soviet satellites objects independently claimed by them and were told to return the Duerers to prince Lubomirski without publicity. Hence: restitution to an individual. Nicholas, Rape of Europa, p. 431.

Feb. 1948: Non-monetary gold transferred to the PCIRO for disposal. Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 385.

March 1948: FED authorized to release jewelry to the IRO valued at approx. 7.3 million francs. FA 4/25, note 94.

May 1948: 7500 diamonds of over 336 carats restituted to the Dutch. FA 4/25, note 129.

Jun. 23, 1948: JRSO appointed as successor organization

Aug. 3, 1948: FED reports that no monetary gold left in its custody. Total amount of monetary gold distributed to the "gold pot" from the FED was \$263,680, 452.94, \$10 million more than the entire amount of Reichsbank gold

reserves captured by the US Army as of September 1945.
Slany Report, p. 175.

Oct. 1948: Restitution of Czech jewelry. FA 4/25, note 101.

Nov. 1948: Dutch diamond restitution from the US zone in Germany estimated to be worth RM 7.5 million in 1938 RM value. FA 4/25, note 133. Also restitution of Czech stones. FA 4/25, note 154

March 1949: 54,539 properties still in MG control, of which 30,761 duress properties. Clay, Decision, p. 312.

Jun. 10, 1949: Immediate Aid Law adopted by Brits and US for those needing aid for suffering under the currency reform law and/or political persecution during the Nazizeit. Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 460.

July 1, 1949: MG property control offices dissolved.

July 1949: Restitution law enacted in Berlin by the Kommandatura. (Ellen's paper, p. 13).

August, 1949: General Claims Law approved by MG and promulgated in the 4 Laender. Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 457. Also see The Shingle, p. 44. Also Sagi, p. 42-43.

August 1949: As of this month roughly estimated that \$300,000 had been allocated to the IRO from collection in Austria. Most of these currencies had been uncovered on the Hungarian Gold Train. FA 4/25, note 181

Summer, 1950: US Zone has most extensive restitution decrees in operation of all the zones. Law and Contemporary Problems, p. 460.

December 1950: Summary for Wiesbaden reports that 340,846 items had been returned since its establishment, a rather meaningless statistic given the fact that one single "item," a library, had contained 1.2 million objects, and another, 3 million. Nicholas, Rape of Europa, p. 428.

Sept., 1951: Items remaining in the Collecting Points handed over to German Treuhandstelle, which in the next ten years returned to their owners some sixty thousand items

representing over a million objects. About 3500 lots distributed among German museums and institutes. Nicholas, Rape of Europa, p. 434.

Nov. 24, 1952: Salzburger Nachrichten reports that Sh 500.000.000 is the value of unclaimed property in Austria. [319314]

Sept. 18, 1953: Entschadigungsgesetz (Indemnification Law) enacted. See The Shingle, p. 44 for "highlights."

Jan. 6, 1978: Crown of St Stephen returned to Hungary. Nicholas, Rape of Europa, p. 432.